



HAWAII WATER ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION • SINCE 1962
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March 23, 2012

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Members
House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2640 SD1, Relating to Wastewater

The Hawaii Water Environment Association (HWEA) respectfully **opposes** SB 2640 SD1. The bill proposes that, "Counties shall permit the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater treatment system as an on-site means of wastewater disposal when:

- (i) The individual wastewater treatment system pre-dates a county-operated wastewater treatment system; and
- (ii) The county determines that allowing the individual wastewater treatment system is fair and equitable.

No later than December 31, 2013, the counties shall adopt rules or ordinances to effectuate this subparagraph."

HWEA opposes SB 2640 SD1, because Hawaii Administrative Rules, Section 11-62-06(b) requires all buildings generating wastewater located within or near the proximity of an available public sewer system to connect to the public sewer. When a county's taxpayers and rate payers invest in a public wastewater collection system to protect public health and the environment in a specific service area, it is the responsibility of property owners in the service area to participate by connecting to the public wastewater collection system.

Individual wastewater systems (IWSs) are permitted by the State Department of Health as a temporary method of wastewater disposal when a public system is not readily available. Tens of thousands of IWSs are used in Hawaii where public sewer systems are not available. When properly designed, installed, operated, and maintained, IWSs can treat and dispose of domestic wastewater in a manner that adequately protects public health and the environment. However, there are many failing cesspools that do threaten public health and compromise the environment. It is neither fair to the public taxpayers and rate payers, nor beneficial to public health and the environment, to

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allow property owners within a service area to opt out of connecting to a public wastewater system designed and constructed to serve that area.

The HWEA is a non-profit organization comprised of approximately 450 environmental and sanitary engineers, government officials, scientists, treatment plant operators and other water quality specialists. HWEA is a member organization of the international 40,000-member Water Environment Federation (WEF) that was founded in 1928 as a technical and educational organization. The mission of WEF is to preserve and enhance the global water environment. We would be pleased to serve as a technical resource for you and your committee members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott McAdam", written in a cursive style.

Scott McAdam
HWEA President

SB2640

SB2640

Rick Cox [rcoxiii@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:50 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Good Afternoon Sirs and Madams,

I am writing in support of SB 2640 that requires counties to permit the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater treatment system when it pre-dates a county-operated wastewater treatment system and the county determines that allowing the individual wastewater treatment system is fair and equitable.

It is unfair to make someone connect to a county operated system, particularly when the home is already safely and properly treating their waste. The expense of putting in a system, and then five or ten years later being mandated to connect is wholly unfair unless the County is willing to pay for the connection as well as the decommissioning of the septic system.

Thank you for your consideration,
Richard Cox